

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A hot dip coating apparatus for coating a steel strip wherein the strip is immersed in a bath of coating alloy containing aluminum, the apparatus including
at least one component immersed in the bath of coating alloy containing aluminum, the
at least one component having a surface that comes into contact with the bath when in use,
wherein the component is made from aluminum corrosion resistant stainless steel
containing an appreciable amount of nitrogen distributed substantially uniformly throughout its
microstructure.
2. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
aluminum corrosion resistant stainless steel contains greater than 0.10 wt % of nitrogen.
3. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
at least one component is a sink roll under which the ~~metal~~-steel strip is passed.
4. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus for coating a steel strip
wherein the strip is immersed in a bath of coating alloy containing aluminum,
the apparatus including
at least one component immersed in the bath of coating alloy containing aluminum, the
at least one component having a surface that comes into contact with the bath when in use,
wherein the at least one component includes at least one layer made from aluminum
corrosion resistant stainless steel containing an appreciable amount of nitrogen distributed
uniformly through it microstructure.
5. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the
aluminum corrosion resistant stainless steel contains greater than 0.10 wt % of nitrogen.

6. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the at least one component includes a further layer, and wherein the aluminum corrosion resistant stainless steel layer containing the nitrogen is disposed between the surface and the further layer.

7. (Previously Presented) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the further layer is formed from stainless steel.

8. (Currently Amended) A component for a hot dip coating apparatus for coating a steel strip
wherein the strip is immersed in a bath of coating alloy containing aluminum,
wherein the component is immersed in the bath of coating alloy containing aluminum,
the component having a surface that comes into contact with the bath when in use, and
is made at least in part from aluminum corrosion resistant stainless steel containing an appreciable amount of nitrogen distributed substantially uniformly throughout its microstructure.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a component of a hot dip apparatus for immersing a sheet metal strip in a bath of coating alloy containing aluminum,
wherein the component is formed at least in part from an aluminum corrosion resistant stainless steel containing an appreciable amount of nitrogen, the nitrogen being dissolved into the stainless steel in a molten state so as to be substantially distributed throughout its microstructure.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of coating a steel strip wherein the strip is immersed in a bath of coating alloy containing aluminum, the method comprising the step of passing the steel strip over a component immersed in the bath,

wherein the component is made from aluminum corrosion resistant stainless steel containing an appreciable amount of nitrogen distributed substantially uniformly through its microstructure.

11. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the at least one component is a sink roll under which the metal strip is passed.

12. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the at least one component includes a further layer, and wherein the aluminum corrosion resistant stainless steel layer containing the nitrogen is disposed between the surface and the further layer.

13. (Currently Amended) The component for a hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the aluminum corrosion resistant stainless steel contains greater than 0.10 wt % of nitrogen.

14. (Currently Amended) A component for a hot dip coating apparatus for coating a steel strip wherein the strip is immersed in a bath of coating alloy containing aluminum, the component having a surface that comes into contact with the bath when in use, wherein the component includes at least one layer made from an aluminum corrosion resistant stainless steel containing an appreciable amount of nitrogen distributed uniformly through its microstructure.

15. (Currently Amended) The component for a hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the aluminum corrosion resistant stainless steel contains greater than 0.10 wt % of nitrogen.

16. (Currently Amended) The component for a hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the component includes a further layer, and wherein the aluminum corrosion

| resistant stainless steel layer containing the nitrogen is disposed between the surface and the further layer.

17. (Previously Presented) The component for a hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the further layer is formed from stainless steel.